000 /335 cont./

423 623 648 land. On it usually stand the native pueblos, and from it the municipal councils have set aside the so-called settlement areas, into which, since they belong to the municipio, "white" penetration has been possible.

423 425 Private ownership of land is acquired essentially through adjudication, through work, and through inheritance. It may also be acquired through gift or sale, but this is quite rare.

423 425 623 Since the true owner of the protected lands is the cabildo, it is this institution that distributes the lands to each member of the community. The titles that it grants are called adjudications. The condition for enjoying possession of a specific parcel is residence in the community and, above all, work. In the case where an individual has idle lands because he cannot manage to work them, the cabildo reserves the right to take this part away from him in order to give it to someone who needs it. Those who through special circumstances live elsewhere, outside of the parcialidad, lose their right to possession of the land.

423 425 623 662 Although it is true that in the distribution of land made by the cabildo it venerates, respects, and is guided by the laws of justice, it is also true that they are not exempt from committing unjust acts. If a member of the community can advantageously entertain and show courtesies to the members of the cabildo and is interested in acquiring more land, he can obtain it in this way. It is relatively easy to suborn the cabildo. Then the cabildo can wrong some in order to benefit others. But this defect may be corrected with the selection of men who can fulfill their functions as members of the cabildo competently and with the exercise of sound directive policies on the part of the municipal executive.

423 623 421 Now then. It is also true that some natives have more land than others. But this is due to the fact that their respective ancestors cleared more forest than others. They colonized more land. Their right of ownership is granted through labor. "The ancestors" -- says a Calderun informant -- "worked the montaña and this is why we have land. This land does not belong to the cabildo." This procedure is still followed in the parcialidades where there is still uncultivated land. /336/ The cabildo has